

Dear FCC,

I have been an avid satellite radio listener for a number of years and find it to be an outstanding source of the news and entertainment I want. I moved to satellite radio when I grew tired of the poor programming available to me locally and grew frustrated trying to find enjoyable stations as I drove from city to city.

When my favorite programming was changed on a local station, I contacted the station to express my feelings and had a nice conversation with the program manager. He said the new programming would be better and I should give it a try. I tried it as asked and hated it. Calls to the station manager to again express my feelings were unanswered. I bought satellite radio shortly thereafter and have not regretted the decision once.

My drives are far more enjoyable and relaxing since satellite provides enough options allowing me to listen to what I want, not a local station manager or Arbitron.

I prefer to listen to talk radio both news and sports on a national level. Local radio does not provide this level of coverage. At most you get a few minutes at the top of the hour for news that is often times preempted by the local station. Local sports radio gets old very quickly. I don't know how many times I have had to hear a caller propose trading three draft picks and a third string player for the star of another team.

I find the traffic service provided by local radio useless. When I do listen to local radio it is usually trying to catch a traffic report. First you have to figure out when they are on (?traffic on the one?s?), and if they are on time you usually hear from a personality in a helicopter trying to make jokes and talking about only a fraction of the roads in the area. I now have to wait 10 more minutes before the next report and hope I am not already taking the wrong route or that they might mention where I am going. Forget about it if I am in a distant city.

I want traffic reports I need when I get in the car. I cannot rely on the quality or accuracy of local radio and this has cost me a fair amount of time and aggravation.

I cannot attest to the quality of satellite radio traffic reports since it is not yet provided in my area, I am anxiously waiting the day that they do. I would like the opportunity to judge the quality for myself and I also feel a little competition can go a long way to improving services. What incentive does local radio have to improve if meaningful competition is restricted?

Please give me the opportunity to make the choice for myself where I get the information I use on a day to day basis. I have tried local radio and it has failed on most counts. Satellite radio seems to be doing pretty well so far and I strongly feel should be given the opportunity to expand its offerings into traffic and weather.

I respectfully ask you to reject NAB's petition 04-160. Please give satellite radio the opportunity to provide the services that local radio fails to provide.

Best Regards,

David E. Hunt

